

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

May 25, 2004

5:15 PM

Chairman O'Neil called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen O'Neil, Shea, Garrity, Smith, Lopez

Messrs: Robert MacKenzie, Kevin Sheppard

Chairman O'Neil advises the purpose of the meeting is to conclude discussion regarding the FY2005 CIP Resolution.

<u>Actions of the Committee for recommendation to date:</u>		
	<i>Amount Changed</i>	<i>New Total</i>
<i>Table 3 City Cash</i>		
410005 <i>Fire Department reduced Wellness grant</i>	-\$55,000	\$95,000
41120 <i>Police Department eliminated Impound Lot</i>	-\$20,000	-0-
510805 <i>Manchester Boys & Girls Club After School Program</i>	+\$15,000	\$30,000
710705 <i>Highway Department</i>	+\$5,000	\$30,000
811205 <i>Human Resources Employee Training & Development</i>	+\$25,000	\$45,000
<i>TOTAL balance CIP cash table reduction</i>	-30,000	\$1,886,065

(Balance left of cash \$30,000 recommended to be added to operating budget – Human Resources, line item 03501 for Insurance Consultant)

Additional funding for 2003 Chronic Drain provided \$9,200 paperwork to be forwarded to City Clerk for committee report.

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Garrity, it was voted to accept actions recommended to date.

Alderman Lopez stated in reviewing some of the situations here and talking to a few Aldermen and meeting with the Police Department, mostly all of the Aldermen that I know are very concerned with the speed in their neighborhoods. In discussions, we'd like to add \$15,600 into account 411205. This money is going to be used as seed money for future grants for neighborhood traffic and speed enforcement in all of the wards in the City. In talking with the Police Department it's really a situation. One little girl got hit the other day, last week some time, and so it's a problem.

Alderman Lopez moved to add \$15,600 to Police Department account #411205 as seed money for future grants for traffic and speed enforcement. Alderman Shea duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Shea stated in addition to the fact that we're adding that, there is an existing program already in place that covers most of the six months that we're not covering. We're actually going to try to get involved I believe in July, August, September of this year, maybe June if possible, and also next year. So it's really, as Alderman Lopez explained, it's an ongoing program and it's very necessary.

Chairman O'Neil stated I know every Alderman here this evening and Alderman DeVries would like to say something. I know Alderman Garrity and Alderman Smith have talked about speed in their wards. It's across the City, so I think this is a great program. I think its one of those where we can difference.

Alderman Shea stated I don't want to speak for Alderman DeVries but she was the one most instrumental. She can explain.

Chairman O'Neil stated I think she's dragged many of us down to the Police Department to meet with the Traffic Division.

Alderman DeVries stated I would note that this is a very scaled down version of the proposal that Alderman O'Neil you and I...as you said I brought you down to the Police Department to see the proposal. This is a very scaled down version, but it still will put additional cruisers into the residential neighborhoods targeting speed and other violations, specifically within the residential areas. This will be throughout the City, will be done in 4-hour blocks, there will be flexibility so we can use it in our school zones, for when we're hearing complaints of speeding around the schools, then when the motorcycles start as they already have, pull them into the areas that are the hot zones for the motorcycles speed and noise issues, and through the residential neighborhoods where constituents are placing

the phone calls, the complaints. Part of the component will be a PR program to get the word out. This is fashioned after a State grant that we had in place this spring. Once again, it will be in the newspaper and on our web site, advertising this, asking people to call into the Police Department notifying them where their complaints are, we can do the electronic monitoring to justify that the complains are valid, if we feel that's necessary, the Police Department already knows a lot of the neighborhoods because we all know. We've been calling them frequently trying to get a handle on speeding. Though this is not going to be a miracle, it's a beginning and it's a beginning that needs to happen and I thank everybody for their support.

Chairman O'Neil stated thank you for starting the discussion and talking to just about every member of this Board about buying in on it.

Chairman O'Neil called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Table 4 General Obligation Bonds

411305	Fire Department	+\$300,000	\$1,600,000
	Fire Station Upgrades		
811405	Highway Department	-\$300,000	\$4,440,000
	(reduced Library HVAC/Facility Improvements)		
TOTAL balance Bond table unchanged.			

Chairman O'Neil stated the changes in the General Obligation Bonds still allows for the Library \$2,950,000 for the record.

Alderman Smith stated I would like to bring up Parks & Recreation, Gill Stadium equipment. We have it under Enterprise and we're buying equipment but low and behold I found out that they don't have any equipment over there at West/Memorial field to do that field over. I wonder if anybody could tell us the reason why. We put money into it, it's three years old now, and there's no maintenance being put on the field.

Robert MacKenzie, Planning Director, stated I don't really have any answer to that. Normally that's not part of a bond project, the maintenance equipment from lawn mowing to the paint for the striping is normally out of the operating budget of the department. So I don't have an answer for you.

Alderman Smith stated just a follow up. Bob since we're going to try and get equipment, naturally we have to for Gill Stadium, is there any way you could suggest that we could get equipment for West/Memorial or if we get the equipment can we utilize it at both fields with the Parks & Recreation Department?

Mr. MacKenzie replied the equipment for Gill Stadium would be under the enterprise program. I know they had some money allocated under enterprise, so I don't know unless they share-funded some equipment, which is possible, if they paid 50 percent enterprise and 50 percent operating, they could perhaps purchase equipment that could be used at both.

Alderman Smith stated this is why I'd like to follow up, Mr. Chairman, and your suggestion last night, I really believe fully now that Gill Stadium shouldn't be in the enterprise system at all.

Chairman O'Neil stated if you think of it this is going to be a problem, Memorial is going to come on line in August and I don't know that there's the proper equipment. I don't think it's daily that something has to be done at these fields, it might be quarterly or they have to somehow groomed and swept and we don't have any equipment to do it and it's something we need address at all three facilities.

Alderman Lopez stated I was looking for my list of things and Frank Thomas and Ron Ludwig are going to be monitoring 1) Gill Stadium, 2) he has a list of equipment that he's going to need, which I'm sure is either going to be coming out of the enterprise system or some type of special allocation is going to have to be given. Alderman Smith is absolutely right on the piece of equipment that they need not only at Gill Stadium but West/Memorial field. I would suggest that we allow the superintendent to buy the necessary equipment, he's going to have to buy that equipment out of the enterprise fund because Gill Stadium is still in the enterprise fund, and also there's school allocations for West High School that he's going to have to work out with the School Department. Although I agree with you, I don't it's a crisis that we do anything at this time because there are other factors that are going to be involved, such as electricity, heat, and everything that Frank Thomas is monitoring over at Gill Stadium until the Fisher Cats leave.

Chairman O'Neil stated we should find out what equipment needs to be purchased. I don't even know what that is. It's in there; it says \$100,000, it just says for equipment. Bob do you happen to know the breakdown?

Mr. MacKenzie answered no I don't.

Chairman O'Neil asked does Highway happen to know the breakdown of the equipment purchases? Parks isn't here this evening.

Alderman Shea stated I'm wondering if for Memorial High School if the Joint School Committee that's overseeing that particular project, is that something that they could put into that particular project that is ongoing now? Is that a consideration that they might be able to make in the future? I'm not sure if contingency or something in that regard?

Kevin Sheppard, Deputy Public Works Director, replied over at Memorial High School we're actually going to negotiate with the contractor, Gilbane, and their subcontractor Northeast Turf. As part of the turf price we're getting a machine that goes through and it pulls the bolts up and pushes them back down, so we are getting that piece of equipment as part of the Memorial High School project.

Alderman Shea stated Mr. Chairman, they are getting that over at Memorial, so if you're getting that for August, maybe that's usable at West too? Or is that just indigenes to that particular field?

Mr. Sheppard answered I don't know the details, Mr. Ludwig would probably be able to fill in the details, but I know we are getting a piece of equipment for maintenance of that and there's some maintenance being performed by the contractor.

Chairman O'Neil stated if I may Alderman Shea, maybe we hold a meeting, not to address budget, but to discuss this issue sometime in June, after we settle things.

Alderman Smith stated there's quite a bit of equipment involved, I can tell you that. There's a broom sweeper, you have to have a vehicle to pull it, and there was a breakdown I just don't have it with me.

Chairman O'Neil stated Alderman Lopez has it. I'm looking for it now, but maybe we...

Alderman Smith stated it's just like buying a new tractor and not putting gas in it to run it is what we're doing.

Chairman O'Neil stated if I may suggest, why don't we take this up at a...we'll probably have one meeting before we break before the end of the summer, but not get it all tied up right now and maybe we can get a copy of that. I'm sure we all received it, but amongst the millions of pages we've received so far. Anything else to come up? A couple of items regarding the budget, I just would like to for the record Alderman Sysyn has been looking for many years to get some money

out on Ohio Avenue. It doesn't unfortunately fall under the chronic drain because it's not a small project, and we eliminated several years ago the major storm water repair projects, so just for the record, Highway has done an estimate but maybe in fairness to Alderman Sysyn if we could get a motion just to ask Highway and CIP to take a look at it to see if we can ever fit this in. It's not going away and it gets more expensive every year.

On motion of Alderman Garrity, duly seconded by Alderman Smith, it was voted to ask the Highway Department and staff to review potential funding for reconstruction and drainage improvements to Ohio Avenue.

On motion of Alderman Garrity, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to accept the FY2005 CIP budget.

Chairman O'Neil stated let me take up one other item. We have a communication, I don't know if we have copies from Kevin Sheppard, the Deputy Director of Public Works, regarding a snow melter, we believe the intention of the City to buy, but why don't we let Kevin explain what he's asking us to do.

Mr. Sheppard stated it's part of the 2005 MER bond budget, which this committee has approved and a snow melter is part of the list. We've actually bid the piece of equipment and we found that there's a six-month lead time to purchase that equipment. And what we're asking is for this committee to approve and pass it on to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen approve us executing the attached contract to this. What we would do is execute the contract with the supplier, get us in the queue for delivery of the piece of equipment. The problem that's occurring now is there are other orders coming in and the longer we wait to get this delivery in the further out delivery to us will be. We realize the money won't be available until July, and we've talked to the contract and they said if we send them a letter of intent along with a contract, knowing that payment won't begin until July, they're asking for 30 percent payment in July and then there's a payment schedule in here, we could get them the queue.

Chairman O'Neil asked Kevin, we no longer have a place to dump the snow, we hauled it somewhere down in south Manchester last year, so this is very much needed to make snow removal operations more efficient, especially in the downtown area.

Mr. Sheppard replied right. As we're talking now, it is November or December and if we wait until July, we'll be into January and the concern is we are losing space to store snow.

Alderman Smith moved that the Public Works Director be authorized to execute a contract with Trecan Combustion Limited Inc. in the amount of \$348,500 for a snow melter, subject to the review and approval of the City Solicitor, and further that funding for such equipment is presently recommended in the 2005 CIP budget, and to meet delivery deadlines it is required that the snow melter be ordered at this time. Alderman Shea duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Lopez asked what was the total bonding that you had for this?

Mr. Sheppard answered I believe the total bond request was \$360,000 and the bid came in at \$348,500.

Alderman Lopez asked that's a firm price that you have here, \$348,500?

Mr. Sheppard answered yes this is the bid price, so there will be a balance and that happens. The list that was passed out a couple of meetings ago, those are budgets or estimates for these pieces of equipment and at times there are balances, and what we would do is, once we realize some balance, we come back to this committee and maybe request a different piece of equipment based on the balances that are available. We don't spend the balances; it comes back to this committee for their approval.

Chairman O'Neil asked can we get the report to the full Board tonight?

Clerk Norman answered yes we can.

Mr. MacKenzie stated if I could just comment on that. In the past we've done this before and we did check with the City Solicitor at the time. This is an option; we purchased a fire truck this way before the actual bond money was available. If it were the clear intent of the Board to fund the program, the Board can approve a contract and then the Board is legally bound to purchase that at a later time.

Mr. Sheppard stated and I verified with the City Solicitor today also.

Chairman O'Neil called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Forest stated I don't know if I can bring this up now seeing you've already passed the budget. But I know at the last meeting I sort of walked in at the tail end of a vote and the vote was on account #41120, the Police Department asking for \$20,000 for an impound lot. I guess the money was taken out and split around a little bit. And the reason I'm here to comment on this and I'm too late,

then I'm too late, but the courts throughout the nation have been throwing out court cases because of the lack of the chain of evidence and in this particular case we're talking about vehicles that are being towed to individual towing company garages. Granted some of them have fences and they are secure; the Police Department had requested this because they wanted their own impound lot, they wanted their own way of keeping track of it, and one of the cautions I say in taking this money away is some day, somewhere an accident is going to happen, the vehicle is going to be towed to a garage and something is going to be taken out of that vehicle and the judge is going to throw the case out. So I am asking that somehow, somewhere that you find the money to fund this.

Alderman Lopez stated I met with the Police Department, I met with Deputy Simmons and the procedure and the type of vehicles that they're really talking about are like for a murder scene or something along that nature. I asked what the procedures were and the first thing they do is they take that vehicle to the Police Department and they fingerprint it and do all the necessary things that they have to do. I also asked them how many court cases have he been involved with and has he lost any court cases because of material evidence and the answer was no. At the same time I asked him, which the Chairman knows already, there's five garages over at the Police Athletic League which I'm sure that they would assist them when the cars that they have in there now are out. So I think he was looking in that particular area and understanding all of that, I think it was more important that they haven't had a case thrown out of court in the past to have something like this and when other projects were in great need it just became a priority.

Alderman Forest commented it only takes one Alderman, but thank you any way.

Chairman O'Neil stated I think Alderman Lopez is suggesting about maybe talking to the Police Athletic League about looking at the site. There might be some space over there to help out.

Mr. MacKenzie stated I also wanted to comment on the fact that we did look at the area at the Manchester Transit Authority that the City uses for car impounds and a couple of larger pieces of equipment recently have left, I think they were fire equipment and maybe a health piece, most of the area is already fenced. I think there would be room for the four or five cars. There might be a little bit of money required, \$4,000 or \$5,000 if the committee wanted to we could look into that and then sometime during the year maybe bring that back if we had funds.

Chairman O'Neil stated thank you, I think that's a fine idea. I don't know that we need a motion but you can come back to us with a recommendation on that.

Alderman Roy stated last night I mentioned to you and Alderman Lopez regarding the pay-as-you-go capital improvement and I just wanted to give a little bit of feedback on that. I know that committee has already looked to approve the CIP budget, but if we were to remove, with consultation with the Finance Department, five projects totaling \$955,000 from the CIP budget and pay for them with the onetime revenue account from the sale of the garages and City owned property, the savings over five years would \$1.125 million, so roughly half of our City cash budget over the next five years. And those projects are all projects that could fall under the 5-year bonding, which costs us roughly \$225,000 per year in just interest alone. So at this time I'll share these numbers with you and the committee just so that if we did look at possibly saving the taxpayer money over the next few years, that this would be one opportunity with no impact to services.

Chairman O'Neil asked have you been able to discuss this with the Finance Department?

Alderman Roy answered they are supportive of it. This falls into the pay-as-you-go program that we're going to enable next year under the fiscal year conversion bonds, the \$3 million we're saving there. So it would just be starting the program one year earlier than they would recommend.

Chairman O'Neil asked do you have a list of the programs?

Alderman Roy answered yes.

Chairman O'Neil asked do you have it copied?

Alderman Roy answered no, I just and wrote it for you. There is a very long list on the general obligation bonds of projects that would eligible, what I did was just took \$1 million; projects like information system design, networking upgrades \$200,000, the furnishing for Elderly Services \$195,000, completing the funding on Board of Assessors for \$250,000, Hands Across America for \$250,000, and the Mission Avenue road reconstruction for \$110,000, and that adds up to \$955,000. There are projects like the \$360,000 snow melter, which would also fall under the 5-year bond category that will end up costing us an additional \$225,000 over the life of that bond if we don't pay cash for it. So we could get up into the \$2 or \$3 or \$4 million range of things that would be eligible for paying cash for and eligible for savings but I limited it to \$1 million.

Chairman O'Neil stated I think what would be helpful is maybe if could get together with Finance and CIP staff to come back with something. My understanding was that we couldn't do that, but I have been wrong before so.

Alderman Smith stated I concur with you. I don't think we can, but that's beside the point. I think if there's any information coming, I should be presented to this committee in writing and not verbally. This is the first time I've heard it, so if they get the proper procedures, have statements from Kevin Clougherty, Finance and then bring it into our committee, I think it would be kosher.

Alderman O'Neil stated if it can be done, I think it's certainly an interesting concept. I just never thought it could be done. But Alderman would you work with Finance and with the CIP staff on that and come back to us? We'll hold a meeting in June just to clean up some business before we break for the summer. Anything else to come before the CIP committee?

There being no further business to come before the committee, on motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman Garrity, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee